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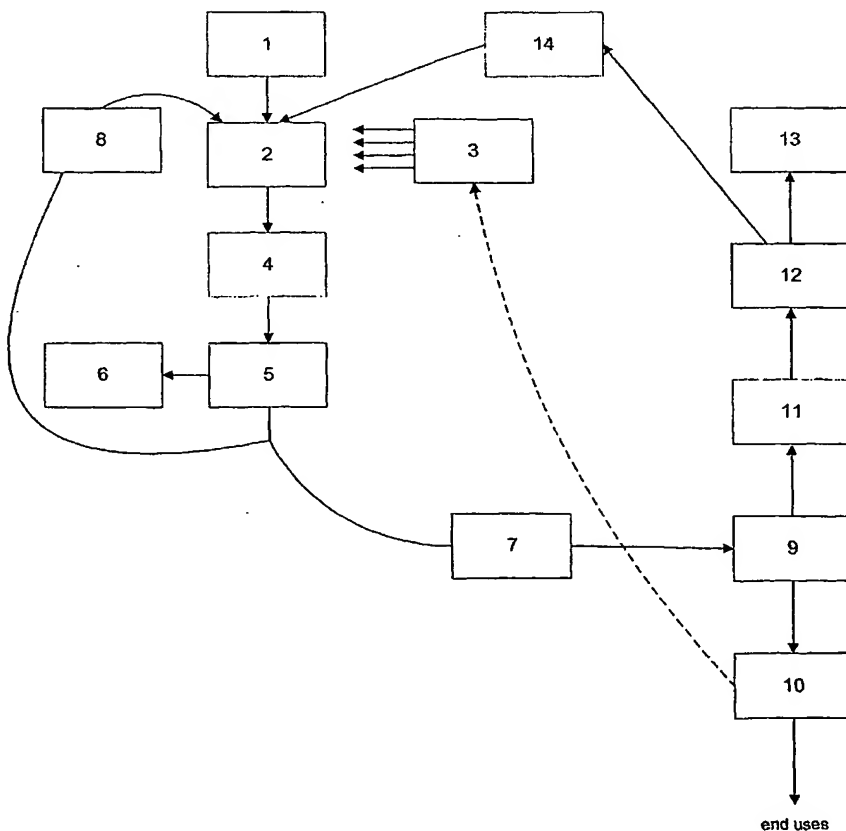
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(54) Title: **SOLVENTS FOR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF LIGNIN-CONTAINING MATERIALS**



(57) Abstract: A method for the treatment of a lignin-containing material such as wood pulp, bagasse and other plant-derived materials, comprising contacting the lignin-containing material with an ionic liquid to extract the lignin therefrom. The ionic liquid is suitably a substituted or unsubstituted imidazolium, triazolium, pyrazolium, pyridinium, pyrrolidinium, piperidinium, ammonium, phosphonium or sulfonium salt of a substituted or unsubstituted aryl sulfonate, such as an ionic liquid salt of a xylene sulfonate.

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